

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-2622

Perry Hall School

9317 Belair Road

Perry Hall, Baltimore County

ca. 1928

Public

The Perry Hall School served as the community's third school from 1928 until 1983. Replacing a late 19th century brick one-room schoolhouse located at the northern end of the Germantown community, the Perry Hall School was constructed with all the modern conveniences available to the small semi-rural community. The architecture of the school, which was greatly influenced by European Modernism and the International style, is typical of the many institutional buildings constructed in the late 1920s and 1930s throughout the United States.

The Perry Hall School, now known as the Gribben Center, at 9317 Belair Road was constructed in 1928. The stretcher bond patterned masonry T-plan building is one story in height with a central gabled pavilion entrance. The entry has an asphalt shingled roof, while the rest of the building has a flat parapeted roof and is set upon a stone foundation. The building is accented with a soldier bond cornice and stringcourse and a rowlock belt course and watertable. A large central interior chimney with a corbeled cap is present. The modernized school now functions in a similar capacity as a center for the mentally handicapped, as it has since 1987. The building, set at an angle on the northeast side of a commercial corridor of Belair Road, shares a parking lot with the adjacent fire station.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2622

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Perry Hall School
other Father Raymond W. Gribben Center

2. Location

street and number 9317 Belair Road not for publication
city, town Perry Hall vicinity
county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Father Raymond W. Gribben Center, Inc.
street and number 9317 Belair Road telephone 410.529.4314
city, town Perry Hall state MD zip code 21236

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel map 72, parcel 1214
city, town Towson liber 10493 folio 626

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Current Function | | Resource Count |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | Contributing Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | <input type="checkbox"/> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> defense | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion | <input type="checkbox"/> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic | <input type="checkbox"/> social | <input type="checkbox"/> structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> objects |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> Total |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> health care | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use | Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | <u>1</u> |

7. Description

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Condition

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Perry Hall School, now known as the Gribben Center, at 9317 Belair Road was constructed in 1928. The stretcher bond patterned masonry T-plan building is one story in height with a central gabled pavilion entrance. The entry has an asphalt shingled roof, while the rest of the building has a flat parapeted roof and is set upon a stone foundation. The building is accented with a soldier bond cornice and stringcourse and a rowlock belt course and watertable. A large central interior chimney with a corbeled cap is present. The modernized school now functions in a similar capacity as a center for the mentally handicapped, as it has since 1987. The building, set at an angle on the northeast side of a commercial corridor of Belair Road, shares a parking lot with the adjacent fire station.

EXTERIOR

The primary façade, facing west, measures three bays in width with a central gabled pavilion. The pavilion is one-and-a-half stories in height and is accented with a central entry. The entry consists of a brick arch, which connects to the soldier bond stringcourse. Beneath the arch is a wooden door surround with a molded cap and sixteen-light fixed window. A lower panel reveals the name Gribben Center. This portion acts as an entablature for the paneled door inset. The doors have been replaced, now being a two-leaf metal and glass variety reached by poured concrete steps with stepped retaining walls. Two original torch-shaped sconce lights flank the entry. The pavilion also features two modern elongated one-light windows, which reach from the stringcourse to the belt course and have inset metal panels above each window. A soldier bond brick cornice further enhances the gabled roofline. Two brick wings that form the main block of the building offset the projecting central pavilion. There is no fenestration located on the façade of the winged main block.

The south elevation consists of three banked-window bays. The first bay, which is the projecting portion, contains six banked pairs of one-light windows with metal transom panels and mullions. The windows share a rowlock sill, which slightly projects from the building's belt course. The space between the projection of the main block and the recessed T-plan portion contains a single one-light window with a similar metal paneled transom. The remaining portion of the south elevation includes two sections of six pairs of banked metal one-light windows with metal surrounds, mullions, and paneled transoms.

The rear of the building faces east and consists of a central inset single-leaf door with a soldier bond brick surround. The door is a metal cased one-light with a paneled metal transom and a single-light sidelight. The entry is reached by a handicapped-accessible ramp with metal tube rails and poured concrete steps.

The north elevation of the building is similar to the south side. However, the addition of a three-quarter story loading dock obscures some of the fenestration. The main block-projecting bay, located to the west, contains six pairs of one-light windows with metal transom panels and mullions. The windows share a rowlock sill, which slightly projects from the building's belt course. The space between the projection of the main block and the recessed T-plan portion contains a single one-light window with a similar metal paneled transom. The central bay of banked windows contains five similar windows and a one-leaf metal and one-light door. All have metal

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transom panels and mullions. The windows share a rowlock sill, which slightly projects from the building's belt course. Poured concrete steps with a metal tube rail access the door. The remaining bay consists of the brick loading dock with a parapeted flat roof and matching brick patterning. It is constructed on a poured concrete foundation. There is a central elongated one-light window with a three-brick soldier lintel. The east side of the loading dock has a single-leaf metal roll-up door with two rounded-corner rectangular lights. The remaining section of the bay consists of four pairs of one-light windows with metal transom panels and mullions. The windows share a rowlock sill that slightly projects from the building's belt course.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building was not accessible for survey. The conversion from the school into a modern facility for persons with disabilities in 1987 required many interior changes.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2622

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | |

Specific dates 1928-1983

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1928, 1983

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Perry Hall School, located at 9317 Belair Road in Perry Hall, served as the community's third school from 1928 until 1983. Replacing a late 19th century brick one-room schoolhouse located at the northern end of the Germantown community, the Perry Hall School was constructed with all the modern conveniences available to the small semi-rural community. The architecture of the school, which was greatly influenced by European Modernism and the International style, is typical of the many institutional buildings constructed in the late 1920s and 1930s throughout the United States.

HISTORY

In the late 17th century, the land now encompassed by the town of Perry Hall was a portion of the land granted to George Ligan. This grant was located between the Baltimore and the White Marsh Run to the south and the Great Gunpowder Falls and Kingsville to the north. After Ligan acquired the 1,000 acres named "The Adventure" in 1684, he appears to have deeded a portion of the estate to Corbin Lee, who began constructing a Georgian style house on the property in the mid-1700s. In 1775, Henry Dorsey Gough purchased the estate from Lee and renamed it Perry Hall. Belair Road connected Baltimore to the town of Bel Air as the mid-1700s. Dating to the 1730s, Joppa Road connected settlements along the Patapsco River with Joppa, the original Baltimore County seat located on the Big Gunpowder River. The Perry Hall estate was located a short distance to the north of the intersection of these two important Colonial period roads. This set the area on a course for development as a crossroads community.¹

By the mid-19th century, the lands associated with Perry Hall had been greatly subdivided, and several other landholders in the area began to construct residential buildings along either side of Belair Road. The 1850 county atlas shows at least nine residential structures located between the two rivers. In addition to these, three taverns clustered around the center of the community near the intersection of Joppa and Belair Roads. The

¹ William B. Marye, "The Old Indian Road," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 15 (1920): pp. 208-213; see also "The New Perry Hall School," *Federation PTA News* 6 (April 1930): p. 1, and E. Frances Offutt, *Baltimore County Landmarks* (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971), p. 46-48.

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name Germantown came to this settlement in the 1860s, when a significant number of German farmers began to settle in and around the area.²

Between 1850 and the mid-1870s, the Germantown community grew considerably. From nine residential structures in 1850, the town grew to include at least thirty-seven dwellings in 1877. This number continued to increase, for the county history published shortly thereafter records the population as fifty inhabitants. At this time, there was a general store, two blacksmith shops, a schoolhouse, three churches, and tavern, and sawmill in the small settlement. In addition, settlements developed in towns in the vicinity of the Belair/Joppa Road intersection. Greenwood, located to the west of Germantown, had a population of one hundred by 1881. Kingsville, the town just north of the Great Gunpowder Falls, had a population of one hundred and fifty. Although this area was still rural in its agricultural character, it was maintaining a rapid rate of development throughout the second half of the 19th century.³

In 1867, the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike Company incorporated with the intent of creating a better road from Baltimore to the town of Jerusalem. The turnpike was slated to follow the path of Belair Road until it reached the Little Gunpowder Falls, at which point it would veer off and follow Jerusalem Road for the remainder of the distance. The turnpike company completed the first eight miles of the road to just south of Perry Hall with the remainder of the road left unimproved. Due to complaints by local citizens and administrative changes in the company, the road was completed for an additional four miles to the existing bridge over Little Gunpowder Falls in 1886. The first tollgate was constructed within the city of Baltimore, and the second tollgate was located along the road just south of the intersection of Joppa Road and the newly renamed Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike.⁴

The educational history of Germantown dates to 1846, when a schoolhouse was constructed at the southeast corner of the Belair/Forge Road intersection in the northern part of the community. The first school building, of wood frame construction, was replaced in 1877 by a one-room brick building erected on the same site. Remodeled in the late 19th or early 20th century, the second Perry Hall school soon became too small for the growing suburban population of the community. The current school was constructed in 1928 to accommodate the educational needs of children in the Perry Hall community.

In 1918, the land on which the Perry Hall School was constructed belonged to Herman and Catharine Hinternes. In that year, they sold they sold approximately twenty acres of land to David Dannenfelser. Ten

² J. C. Sidney, *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1850); see also John McGrain, *Inventory of Baltimore Landmarks*, np.

³ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), 61.

⁴ E. Frances Offutt, *Baltimore County Landmarks* (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971), p. 46; see also William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* (Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), p. 78.

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years later, Dannenfelser subdivided the property, selling roughly four acres of it to the Baltimore County Board of Education for \$5,120. The acreage included one building, which the Board of Education soon demolished for the construction of their new school. Upon completion, the building contained six classrooms, coatrooms, bathrooms, and a teacher's office.⁵

The architecture of the Perry Hall Center is reflective of many institutional buildings constructed in the late 1920s and 1930s. Many institutional buildings, including schools, constructed in the late early and mid-1920s were Tudor or Jacobean Revival in their style. The influence of European Modernism and the International style, however, had a great impact on school architecture in the mid- to late 1920s. The ornamental elements of the earlier revival styles were set aside in favor of streamlining a more functional building exterior while maintaining an interior that served the needs of students and teachers. Many schools constructed at this time had plain masonry walls largely unadorned by carved stone or cast concrete decorative elements. The Perry Hall School follows this pattern of architectural simplification. The only ornamental elements on the building's façade are the use of a decorative brick belt course that follows the top of the windows and becomes a patterned brick archway over the entry. In addition, the recessed doors have a wood surround with lights above and decorative paneling in the walls of the recess.

In 1983, the Board of Education sold the school property to the Baltimore County Government. It appears as though the county government constructed the present Number 55 Fire Station to the north of the school soon after its purchase of the land. In 1987, the county sold the school building and less than one acre of land to the Father Raymond W. Gribben Center, Incorporated. That organization then adapted the building's use for a center for mentally disabled adults. The Perry Hall School continues to serve in that capacity.

Since the mid-20th century, the landscape of Germantown has greatly changed. To begin, the community was absorbed by the town of Perry Hall to the immediate south, which developed more through the early 20th century than Germantown. In 1906, the portion of the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike lying between White Marsh Run and the Little Gunpowder Falls had deteriorated to the extent that all toll collection along this section ceased by order of the state government. After five years of deliberation and petitioning by local residents, the turnpike was finally ceded to Baltimore County. The rural character of the area, however, did not change until after the Great Depression. Increased migration out of Baltimore City and development of the surrounding area led to the suburbanization of Perry Hall. Belair Road, now a main thoroughfare through the town, was widened in the latter half of the 20th century and is now a four lane highway. Commercial buildings, churches, and other institutional buildings now intermingle with a few pockets of residential construction along Belair Road just north of its intersection with Joppa Road.

⁵ "The New Perry Hall School," *Federation PTA News* 6 (April 1930): p. 1.

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Chain of Title:

November 19, 1918: Herman D. Hinternesch and Catharine M. Hinternesch to David A. Dannenfelser
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 506 Folio 112

January 26, 1928: David A. Dannenfelser and Margaret Dannenfelser, wife, to Board of Education of Baltimore County
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 653 Folio 307

June 1, 1983: Board of Education to Baltimore County, Maryland
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 6611 Folio 28

February 27, 1987: Baltimore County, Maryland, to Father Raymond W. Gribben Center, Inc.
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 7428 Folio 100

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Hollifield, William. *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County*. Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.
Marye, William B. "The Old Indian Road," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 15, 1920:
McGrain, John. Inventory of Baltimore Landmarks.
"New Perry Hall School, The" *Federation PTA News* 6 April 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Less than one Acre
Acreage of historical setting Less than one Acre
Quadrangle name White Marsh

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since the early-20th century, the Perry Hall School has been associated with the 0.788 Acres as recorded in the deed of transferral from Baltimore County Maryland to Father Raymond W. Gribben as recorded in the Land Records of Baltimore County as deccribed in Liber 7428, Folio 100. The School as been associated with this parcel since its construction in 1928.

11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| name/title | L. V. Trieschmann, A. L. McDonald, and J. J. Bunting, Architectural Historians | | |
| organization | EHT Traceries, Inc. | date | 8 October 2000 |
| street & number | 1121 5th Street NW | telephone | 202.393.1199 |
| city or town | Washington | state | DC |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

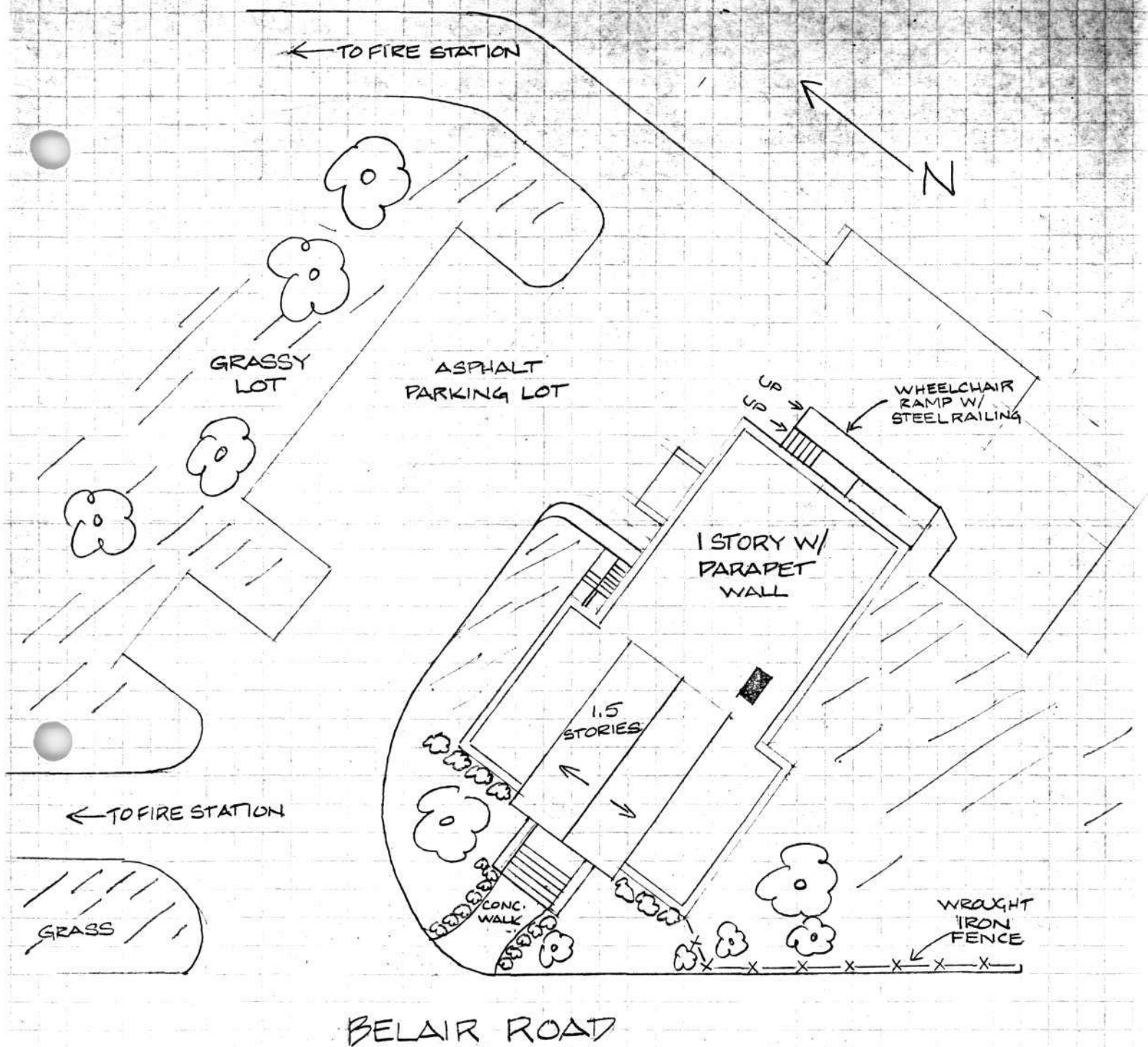
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Offutt, E. Frances. *Baltimore County Landmarks*. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971.

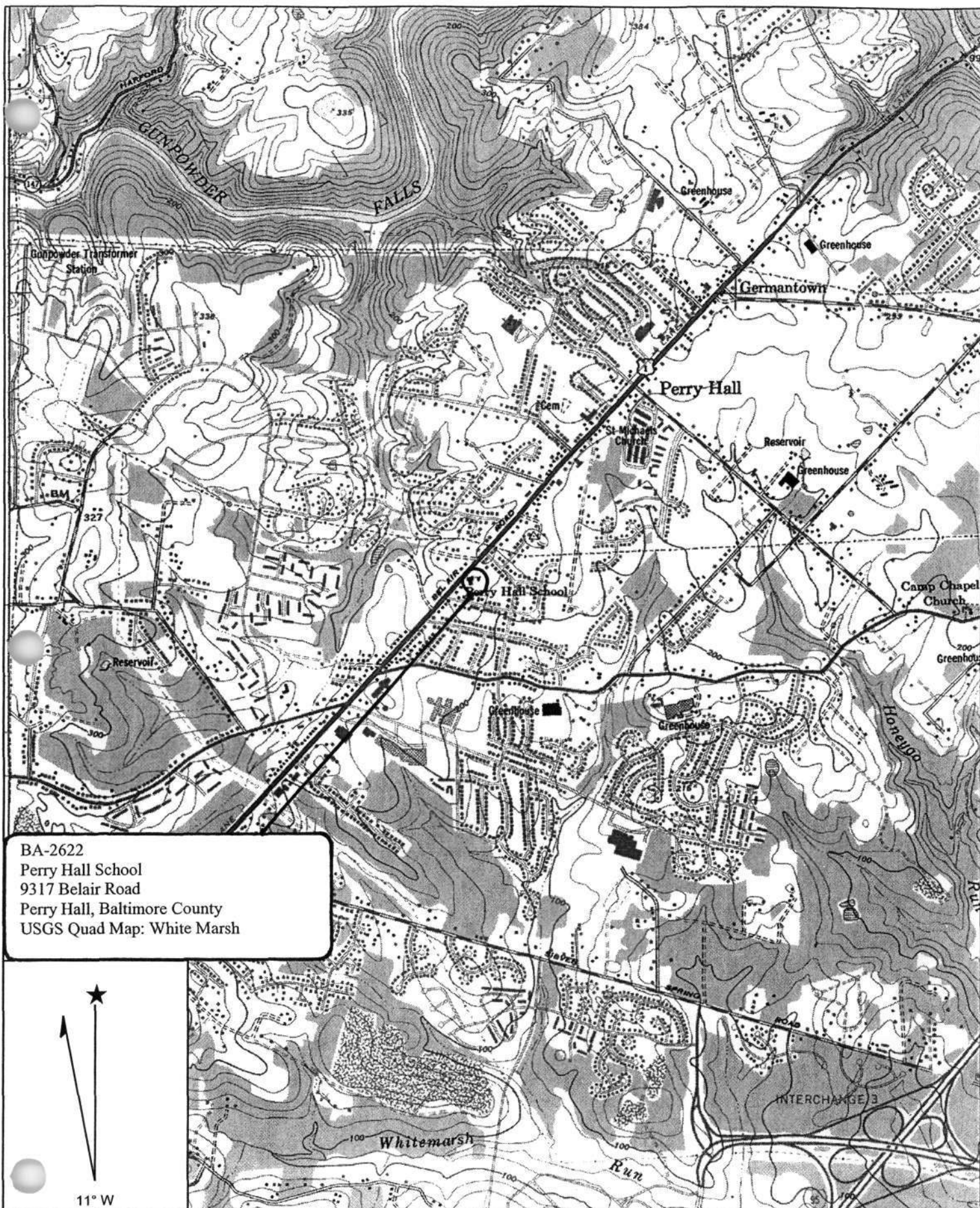
Sidney, J.C. *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys*, Philadelphia, PA: James M. Stephens, 1850.



BA 2622

PERRY HALL SCHOOL
9317 BELAIR ROAD
PERRY HALL
BALTIMORE COUNTY

(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)



BA-2622
Perry Hall School
9317 Belair Road
Perry Hall, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: White Marsh

Name: WHITE MARSH
Date: 6/3/2003
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 18 373237 E 4362295 N



BA-2622

9317 Belair Rd

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Western Elevation, Looking East

1 of 4



BA-2622

9317 Belair Rd

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Northern Elevation, Looking South

2 of 4



BA-2622

9317 Belair Rd

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Eastern Elevation, Looking Southwest

3 of 4



BA-2622

9317 Belair Rd

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Northern Elevation, Looking Southwest

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9317
PERRY HALL CENTER - ca. 1920 - ~~9325~~ Belair Road, Perry Hall. Brick school house, one-story, with central pavilion entrance. Converted to the Gribbin Center for retarded adults in 1987. Shares grounds with modern building, Fire Station No. 55.